

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 205932

EXDIS FROM UNA

FOL RPT MOGADISCIO 1856 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO NAIROBI
AUG 13, 1978

QUOTE: S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 1856

EXDIS

NAIROBI PLS PASS AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PINT, SO, US

SUBJ: ADDOU SAYS INTERNAL SITUATION GRAVE; SOMALI PRESIDENT DESPERAT
E

1. CHARGE MET WITH AMBASSADOR ADDOU JUST BEFORE THE LATTER
DEPARTED FOR WASHINGTON VIA ROME THIS AFTERNOON, AUGUST 13. THE
SOMALI DIPLOMAT TOOK THE CHARGE ASIDE, AND IN A THIRTY MINUTE
CONVERSATION STRESSED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION IN WHICH THE
SIAD GOVERNMENT NOW FINDS ITSELF. ADDOU SAID THAT THE SOMALI
PRESIDENT IS DESPARATE FOR SOME SIGN FROM WASHINGTON THAT THE UNITED
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STATES HAS NOT FORESAKEN THE GSDR. ADDOU SAID THE EXTERNAL
SITUATION IS NOW "OKAY", BUT THAT THERE WERE GRAVE DANGERS "BEYOND
TRIBALISM" FACING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
(GSDR) FROM INSIDE THE COUNTRY. IN RESPONSE TO THE CHARGE'S
QUESTION, ADDOU SAID THE ARMY AND THOSE IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHO
HAVE AN IDEOLOGICAL AFFINITY FOR THE SOVIETS ARE COMBINING TO BRING
EVER GREATER PRESSURES ON PRESIDENT SIAD. THESE CRITICS ASSERT

THAT SIAD HAS DELIVERED NOTHING SINCE THE BREAK WITH THE SOVIET UNION

,

THAT HE HAS FAILED IN HIS QUEST TO OBTAIN ANY SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT SOMALIA NOW STANDS VIRTUALLY FRIENDLESS AND AND ISOLATED, SAID ADDOU. WHEN ASKED ABOUT SUPPORT FROM THE SAUDIS, THE EGYPTIANS, AND THE FRENCH, ADDOU REPLIED THAT IN HIS TRAVELS SIAD HAS FOUND ALL THESE FRIENDS AND POTENTIAL ALLIES HESITENT PENDING A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE BY THE UNITED STATES.

2. ADDOU REPORTED HE SPENT TWO HOURS LAST NIGHT WITH SECURITY CHIEF AHMED SULEIMAN. THE LATTER TOLD ADDOU THAT HE HAD FOUND IT INCREASINGLY NECESSARY TO BOLSTER SIAD, WHO IS, ACCORDING TO ADDOU, AS LOW IN SPIRITS AND DESPERATE AS I HAVE EVER SEEN HIM. SULEIMAN REPORTEDLY TOLD ADDOU THAT EVEN LONG TIME ALLIES AND BROTHER OFFICERS OF PRESIDENT SIAD ARE SAYING IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION,

THAT HE MUST MAKE UP HIS MIND TO GO.

3. ADDOU SAID THAT SIAD DECIDED FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 11, THAT HIS AMBASSADOR MUST RETURN TO WASHINGTON TO MAKE ONE FINAL APPEAL THAT THE MILITARY SURVEY MISSION BE SENT TO MOGADISCIO. THE MISSION CAN BE SEEN AS A SIGN OF SUPPORT, SAID ADDOU, AND WILL HELP BUY TIME WHICH IS THE ALL IMPORTANT FACTOR. ADDOU REPEATEDLY SAID THAT PRESIDENT SIAD MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW HIS CRITICS.

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THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT AT THIS POINT WAS NOT CONCERNED WHETHER HE WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN ONE HUNDRED MILLION OR FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF ARMS FROM THE UNITED STATES. HE DESPERATELY NEEDED SOMETHING TO PROVE HIS GAMBLE IN RENOUNCING SOVIET TIES LAST NOVEMBER WAS NOT IN VAIN. "HOW CAN SIAD STAND UP TO THE WSLF AND SALF WITH NO ONE BEHIND HIM," ADDOU CONTINUED. THE SOMALI DIPLOMAT MADE IT CLEAR THAT IF HIS MISSION TO WASHINGTON FAILS, THEN SIAD WILL HAVE TO DRAW NEW CONCLUSIONS. ADDOU SAID HE WAS CHARGED TO REPORT BACK TO SIAD BY THE END OF AUGUST. IF MY EFFORTS DO NOT SUCCEED, ADDOU SAID, THEN THERE WILL BE NO MORE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. THOSE WHO TAKE OVER WILL INEVITABLY LEAD SOMALIA INTO AN ABJECT SATELLITE POSITION, AND SOMALIA WILL BE THE CUBA OF AFRICA.

4. ADDOU SAID THAT FOR HIS OWN PART HE HAD TO BEGIN CONSIDERING THE ALTERNATIVES. HE SPECULATED THAT SHOULD HE FAIL HE WOULD THEN HAVE TO DECIDE WHERE TO LIVE IN EXILE. HE MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT IN HIS VIEW THE FUTURE OF THE SIAD GOVT WAS IN US HANDS, AND THAT THIS WAS THE PROPOSITION HE INTENDED TO PRESENT IN WASHINGTON.

5. COMMENT: THE SOMALI AMBASSADOR LOOKED DRAWN AND FATIGUED. JUDGING FROM THE HOURS HE SAYS HE HAS KEPT HERE, HIS APPEARANCE IS HARDLY SURPRISING. THE EMBASSY CANNOT MAKE AN AUTHORITATIVE JUDGEMENT OF HIS CASE. IT IS TRUE THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY EXTERNAL ATTACK ON THE GSDR SINCE THE ETHIOPIAN BOMBING OR STRAFFING OF ABDULKADIR ON JULY 14. THE EMBASSY IS NOT IN POSSESSION OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION THAT INDICATES SIAD'S INTERNAL POSITION IS IN JEOPARDY. THAT IS NOT CONCLUSIVE. IT MAY ONLY UNDERSCORE GAPS IN THIS MOST DIFFICULT AREA OF COVERAGE. THE EMBASSY DOES FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THE TRIAL OF THE APRIL 9 COUP PLOTTERS HAS NOT HAD ANY SIGNIFICANT POPULAR SUPPORT. WE FIND THE NUMBERS OF INDICTED HIGHER THAN ANTICIPATED. THIS SITUATION, THE ARMY'S DISCONTENT, AND HIGHER PRICES MUST CONTRIBUTE TO AT LEAST SOME INSTABILITY.

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6. RECOMMENDATION: THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THE DEPARTMENT HEAR ADDOU OUT AT A SUITABLY HIGH LEVEL. WE KNOW THAT SIAD HAS OFTEN CRIED WOLF IN THE PAST. WE CANNOT BE SURE HE DOES NOT HAVE A BETTER BASIS FOR DOING SO THIS TIME THAN HE HAS BEFORE. SIAD REMAINS A PROUD MAN. FOR HIM, THIS APPEAL MUST BE DEMEANING, PERHAPS AND THE BEST INDICATOR WE CAN CITE FOR A PLIGHT HE HIMSELF REPORTEDLY BELIEVES IS DESPERATE. VOUGHT
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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